

ABSTRACT

The invention provides a shield for use on at least a portion of the exterior of a ring binder. The shield can have a hardness greater than the underlying panel of the binder. In some embodiments, at least a portion of a ring mechanism is mounted on an exterior side of the binder to act as the shield. For example, the chassis of the ring mechanism can be mounted on an exterior surface of the binder while at least one ring extends through an aperture in the binder to the interior side of the binder. Particularly, the chassis can be coupled to a mounting surface on the exterior surface of the binder's spine panel.

10